

**Remarks:**

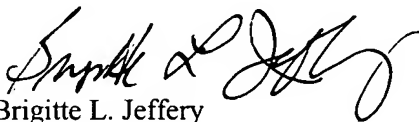
The present amendment cancels claims 1 and 2. Claim 3 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form. Claim 4 and 26 are now dependent on claim 3. A period has been added to the end of claim 13. All other claims remain unchanged.

In the outstanding office action, the Examiner allowed claims 27-39, objected to claims 3 and 5-26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and further objected to claim 13 because of an informality. Claim 1 was rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviouness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 09/959,268 and further under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Allen (GB 2,266,597). Claims 2 and 4 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Allen.

Since claims 1 and 2 are deleted, and claim 4 is now dependent upon claim 3, it is respectfully submitted that It is believed that the amendment proposed above overcome all rejections.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Applicants believe that no additional fee is due for this application. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional required fee, or credit any excess fee paid, to Deposit Account 50-2183 (17.210 CIP).

Respectfully submitted,



Brigitte L. Jeffery  
Reg. No. 38,925

Date: 17 Dec 2003  
Schlumberger Technology Corporation  
200 Gillingham Lane  
Sugar Land, Texas 77478  
Ph: (281) 285-7067  
Fax: (281)285-8569